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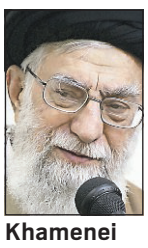
PROTESTS IN IRAN

SUPREME LEADER BLAMES 'ENEMIES' FOR MEDDLING

21 people have died in six days of rallies against weak economy and food price hikes

By Nasser Karimi and Jon Gambrell
The Associated Press


Khamenei

TEHRAN, IRAN » Breaking his silence over nationwide protests that included calls for his ouster, Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday blamed the demonstrations on "enemies of Iran," saying they were meddling in its internal affairs.

The remarks by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the demonstrations — the largest seen in Iran since its disputed 2009 presidential election — came after a bloody night that saw protesters try to storm a police station and the first deaths among its security forces. The unrest has killed at least 21 people in the past six days.

The protests began Dec. 28 in Mashhad over the weak economy and a jump in food prices. They have since expanded to cities and towns in nearly every province.

Hundreds have been arrested, and a prominent judge warned that some could face the death penalty.

Speaking to black-chador-clad women who were relatives of veterans and war dead, the 78-year-old Khamenei warned of an enemy "waiting for an opportunity, for a crack through which it can infiltrate."

"Look at the recent days' incidents," he

IRAN » PAGE 2

PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PHOTOS BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Wonder Woman" star Gal Gadot fields questions from the media at the Palm Spring International Film Festival Awards Gala at the Palm Springs Convention Center on Tuesday. Gadot received a Rising Star Award.

Getting glitzy

Hollywood elite and fans come out for the 29th annual fest, which ushers in awards season

By Vanessa Franko
vfranko@scng.com
@vanessafranko on Twitter

There are few places where Winston Churchill and Wonder Woman share a red carpet.

But Gary Oldman and Gal Gadot, who portrayed the historical figure and the superheroine on screen, were among the celebrities, hundreds of screaming fans and a throng of international press at the 29th annual Palm Springs International Film Festivals Awards Gala on Tuesday to usher in Hollywood's awards season.

Stars already getting big Oscar buzz — including Willem Dafoe, Timothée Chalamet, Jessica Chastain and Saoirse Ronan — were honored at the Palm Springs Convention Center for the soiree that kicks off the annual festival, which will screen more than 180 films before wrapping up Jan. 15.

On the red carpet Tuesday night, many of the stars talked

GALA » PAGE 8

FILM FESTIVAL

When: Through Monday, Jan. 15

Where: Locations throughout Palm Springs including the Annenberg Theater, Camelot Theatres, Palm Springs High School and Regal Cinemas as well as DPlace Entertainment — Mary Pickford 14 in Cathedral City.

Admission: Individual passes are $13 for most films. Special events are more.

Information: 800-898-7256, psfilmfest.org

Sam Rockwell, left, hugs fellow actor Gary Oldman on the red carpet during the Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala, which kicks off the annual festival.

COACHELLA FESTIVAL

MATT SAYLES — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beyoncé was supposed to headline Coachella in 2017 but postponed due to her pregnancy. This year, she is in.

THINGS TO KNOW: LESS ROCK, MORE RAP, WOMEN

By Peter Larsen
plarsen@scng.com
@PeterLarsenBSF on Twitter

The lineup for the 2018 edition of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival dropped on Tuesday, and if you were surprised by the headliners, well, you haven't been paying attention.

Beyoncé was a given. After dropping out of her headlining debut in 2017 for the very good reason of being pregnant with twins, she had promised to make up the billing this year, which she'll do both Saturdays of Coachella. And the Weeknd and Eminem, who'll headline Friday and Sunday nights, respectively, have been widely predicted since at least mid-December, those rumors proving true on Tuesday.

So what our instant take on this typically dense billing of 150 or so acts? It's partly what's not represented this year, it's a bit of what seems to continue to grab a bigger share of the lineup, and after that, well, you're going to have read our Five Things to see, now aren't you?

1. Rock is dead?: Remember when everyone complained because Coachella kept booking all the old rock superstars — Roger

COACHELLA » PAGE 5

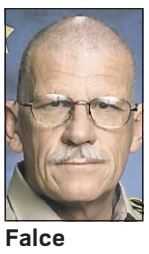
SAN BERNARDINO

Deputy, 70, dies after an off-duty assault

Attack followed a car crash; he worked for the department for 36 years, was devoted to hometown

By Brian Rokos
brokos@scng.com
@Brian_Rokos on Twitter

A San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy who was assaulted after an off-duty traffic collision Sunday died Tuesday night, the Sheriff's Department said.


Falce

Lawrence "Larry" Falce, 70, was punched in the head in an altercation with the other driver after the collision at University Avenue at Kendall Drive in San Bernardino, sheriff's Lt. Sarkis Ohannessian said.

Falce was pronounced dead at 8:11 p.m. Tuesday at Loma Linda University Medical Center. A procession was planned Tuesday night to accompany his body from the hospital to the coroner's office.

Falce had worked for the Sheriff's Department for 36 years, and in patrol out of the Central Station in his hometown of San Bernardino for the past 32 years, Ohannessian said.

"Larry loved being on the street in the patrol car helping people where he resides," Ohannessian said.

Falce served in the Army before joining the Sheriff' s Department in 1981. He worked at the Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center in Devore in 1982 and then for two years at the

DEPUTY » PAGE 4

UC RIVERSIDE

Cutts' firing enshrouded in mystery

Overriding reason for it, method, timing unclear

Was this really necessary?

Did UC Riverside athletic director Tamica Smith Jones really have to fire the men's basketball coach, Dennis Cutts, four days before the team's conference opener?

Jim Alexander
Columnist

Worse, did she have to do so in what apparently was such a mean-spirited fashion? According to multiple sources, all of whom requested anonymity, Jones was waiting at Cutts' car in the parking lot after the team returned from Seattle early Sunday morning, and she fired him on the spot.

Evidently, we can now add the phrase "to Lane Kiffin" to the dictionary as a verb. Cutts wasn't fired at the airport, the way Kiffin was by USC's Pat Haden in 2013, but the effect was pretty much the same.

Why the firing? And why at midseason, a rarity in college athletics?

We're still not sure.

Jones cited wins and losses in the

UC RIVERSIDE » PAGE 4

MARK DUSTIN — STAFF FILE PHOTO

UC Riverside head coach Dennis Cutts was fired early Sunday when the team returned from a road trip to Seattle.